

Name _____ Period _____

INSTRUCTIONS: After reading and annotating the following document, complete a C.A.P.P.S. analysis in order to answer the question, "Was it wise for the U.S. support a coup of President Diem?"

SOURCE: JFKL: JFKP: National Security File: Meetings & Memoranda series, box 316, folder: Meetings on Vietnam 8/24/63-8/31/63. This is the notorious "Hilsman Cable," drafted by Assistant Secretary of state For Far Eastern Affairs Roger A. Hilsman in response to a repeated contact between General Don and Conein on August 23.

OUTGOING MESSAGE Department of State
INDICATE: COUNCIL
 CHANGE TO

49
15021

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

Origin: **ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON - OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE** 24 9 23 63
Info: **243**

EYES ONLY - AMBASSADOR LODGE
FOR CINCPAC/POLAD EXCLUSIVE FOR ADMIRAL FELT
NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Re CAS Saigon 0265 reporting General Don's views; Saigon 320, and Saigon 316, and Saigon 329.

It is now clear that whether military proposed martial law or whether Nhu tricked them into it, Nhu took advantage of its imposition to smash pagodas with police and Tung's Special Forces loyal to him, thus placing onus on military in eyes of world and Vietnamese people. Also clear that Nhu has maneuvered himself into commanding position.

US Government cannot tolerate situation in which power lies in Nhu's hands. Diem must be given chance to rid himself of Nhu and his coterie and replace them with best military and political personalities available.

If, in spite of all of your efforts, Diem remains obdurate

Drafted by: **FE:RHilsman:ml 8/24/63**
Classification: **FE - Mr. Hilsman
WH - Mr. Forrestal
U - Mr. Ball**

Telegraphic maximization and classification approved by: **M - W. Averell Harriman
Getsinger**

S/S-O - Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

FORM 05-322
Authority: **JFK 477-10001-10454**
By: **NARA** Date: **4-20-98**

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".
COPY - LBJ LIBRARY

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: COMINT
 CHARGE TO

~~TOP SECRET~~

Classification

49
15021

Crypt
Info

ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON - OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

243

EYES ONLY - AMBASSADOR LODGE
FOR CINCPAC/POLAD EXCLUSIVE FOR ADMIRAL FELT
NO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Re CAS Saigon 0265 reporting General Don's views; Saigon 320, and Saigon 316, and Saigon 329.

It is now clear that whether military proposed martial law or whether Nhu tricked them into it, Nhu took advantage of its imposition to smash pagodas with police and Tung's Special Forces loyal to him, thus placing onus on military in eyes of world and Vietnamese people. Also clear that Nhu has maneuvered himself into commanding position.

US Government cannot tolerate situation in which power lies in Nhu's hands. Diem must be given chance to rid himself of Nhu and his coterie and replace them with best military and political personalities available.

If, in spite of all of your efforts, Diem remains obdurate

Drafted by: *GH*
FE:RHilsman:ml 8/24/63
Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: *W. Averell Harriman*
M - W. Averell Harriman

Classified:
FE - Mr. Hilsman
WH - Mr. Forrestal
U - Mr. Ball
S/S-O - Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Getsinger
~~TOP SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".

FORM 8-61 DS-322

DECLASSIFIED Classification

Authority JEX 477-10001-10454

By AW NARA Date 4-20-98

COPY-LBJ LIBRARY

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

(3) We recognize the necessity of removing taint on military for pagoda raids and placing blame squarely on Nhu. You are authorized to have such statements made in Saigon as you consider desirable to achieve this objective. We are prepared ^{to take same line here and} to have Voice of America make statement along lines contained in next numbered telegram whenever you give the word, preferably as soon as possible.

Concurrently with above, Ambassador and country team should urgently examine all possible alternative leadership and make detailed plans as to how we might bring about Diem's replacement if this should become necessary.

Assume you will consult with General Harkins re any precautions necessary protect American personnel during crisis period.

You will understand that we cannot from Washington give you detailed instructions as to how this operation should proceed, but you will also know we will back you to the hilt on actions you take to achieve our objectives.

Needless to say we have held knowledge of this telegram to minimum essential people and assume you will take similar precautions to prevent premature ~~leaks~~ ^{leaks.}




GP-2.

END.

BALL

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

C	Context: What immediate historical events are taking place around this document. Consider the culture of the period, including beliefs, values, and norms.
A	Audience: Consider who this document was created for, and how that might have influenced the wording and imagery used in the document.
P	Perspective: Consider the person or group responsible for creating the document. How might their perspective influence what they're saying?
P	Purpose: What is the author's intention in creating and distributing this document. Does this purpose reveal and bias in the document?
S	Significance: What information does the document reveal about the question we're trying to answer? What are the limitations we have in terms of understanding and using this document?

C	Context:		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
A	Audience:		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
P	Perspective:		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

